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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Atty. Docket

A. Kobilanski

US 010057

Serial No. 09/809,361

Group Art Unit

Filed: March 15, 2001

Ex.

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MOTION ESTIMATION IN IMAGE-SEQUENCES WITH EFFICIENT CONTENT-BASED SMOOTHNESS CONSTRAINT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231RECEIVED
FEB 04 2002
Technology Center 2600PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-captioned application as follows prior to examination thereof.

IN THE SPECIFICATION**Page 1, in the paragraph beginning on line 18, change as follows:**

Motion in image-sequences is analyzed for various reasons.

Referring to Fig. 1, for example, it is a component of various methods for image-sequence (e.g., video) quality enhancement 20, generation of interpolated frames 30 between the frames of an image-sequence, image-sequence compression 40, removal of noise 50 present in image-sequences, and more. For example, motion estimation can be used to improve images because it allows images of different frames to be averaged. Averaging reduces noise because images of the same subject taken over and over, if